

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I (claims 11-17) in the reply filed on 12/14/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the two inventions are related and the costs outweigh the burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because the motor and the method of making the motor as claimed would cause an undue burden on the examiner since the two inventions claim divergent subject matter and claim different features, and therefore are both independent and distinct from each other.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 16 is identical to claim 14. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 11-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurosawa et al. (Japanese Patent Document No.: JP 02055565 A).

For claim 11, Kurosawa et al. disclose a two phase motor comprising a stator (reference numerals 2-4, see figures 1, 2) carrying two power supply windings (reference numerals 6, 7); and a rotor (reference numeral 5) provided with a bipolar permanent magnet (see figures 3, 4), wherein the stator defines a first principal magnetic pole, a second principal magnetic pole and a third principal magnetic pole (reference numerals 2A, 3A, 4, figures 1, 6) that together define a stator aperture in which the bipolar magnet is housed, and the first and second principal poles are connected to the third principal pole by two magnetic cores (see figures 1, 2), respectively, each core carrying one of the two windings, wherein the third principal pole defines two adjacent secondary poles (reference numerals 4A1, 4A2, figure 6) separated in a peripheral region at the stator aperture by a region of high magnetic reluctance and connected to one another by a stator part of high magnetic permeability (see figures 1-6), wherein the first and second principal poles and the two secondary poles are distributed in four sectors of a circle of about 90° around the stator aperture (see figure 6).

For claim 12, Kurosawa et al. illustrate an opening (reference numeral 4F, figure 6), i.e. a blind spot opening into the stator aperture, that separates the two secondary poles.

For claims 13, 14, and 16, Kurosawa et al. illustrate the three principal magnetic poles being formed by three planar parts that extend in the same general plane (see figures 1-4, 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Oudet et al. (US Patent No.: 5521451).

For claim 15, Kurosawa et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the stator being formed of an iron-silicon alloy. It would have been obvious to have this configuration, since Oudet et al. already disclose a two phase motor having stator parts made of iron-silicon (see column 2, lines 61-65), and a person of ordinary skill would have been able to form the stator out of this material as a matter of design choice for the invention.

7. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Kotani et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No.: US 2002/0135243 A1).

For claim 17, it would have been obvious to have an indicator device in a vehicle having an analog display and comprising the motor of claim 11 for driving the display, since Kurosawa et al. already disclose the motor as explained above, and it would have been well within the level of ordinary skill in the art to include the motor of Kurosawa et

Art Unit: 2834

al. in any type of device, such as one indicating the value of a measured physical magnitude in a moving vehicle, for the purpose of operating the device. This configuration is also already known in the art at the time the invention was made, as exhibited by Kotani et al. (see paragraph [0004]).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEX W. MOK whose telephone number is (571)272-9084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 Eastern Time, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren E. Schuberg can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2834

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